

Message Text

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APPROVED BY: S/S-O DMACK

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P 051407Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

CINCLANT

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028193

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL TELEGRAM SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC FROM AMEMBASSY LISBON

DTD 05 FEB 76 DTG 050914Z FEB 76 RPTD YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 788

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS PRIORITY TO USMISSION NATO, USCINCEUR

VAIHINGEN GER,CINCLANT NORFOLK VA, USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE FORCE DEVELOPMENT

REF: (A) STATE 20559 (DTG 280026Z JAN 76), (B) LISBON 641

(DTG 291630Z JAN 76)(NOTAL)

1. APPRECIATE RAPID AND FAVORABLE WASHINGTON RESPONSE OUTLINED

REF (A). FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF THE TWO POINTS

CITED IN PARA 4 REF (A):

2. FUTURE STRUCTURE AND MISSIONS FOR ARMED FORCES: ALTHOUGH

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THOUGHTS HAVE NOT FULLY CRYSTALIZED IN THE WAKE OF PORTUGUESE

WITHDRAWAL FROM AFRICA, ALL PORTUGUESE SERVICES ENVISAGE A NATO-RELATED MISSION. STRENGTH OF SERVICES IS CURRENTLY ENVISAGED AS FOLLOWS:

-- ARMY: 26,000 (APPROXIMATELY 10,000 "OPERATIONAL"; 10,000 "TERRITORIAL INFRASTRUCTURE"; 6,000 "GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURE" - SEE LISBON 525 DTG 241316Z JAN 76).

-- NAVY: 12,000 (PRIMARILY ASW).

-- AIR FORCE: 5 TO 10,000.

3. AIRTRANSPORTABLE BRIGADE: AIRTRANSPORTABLE BRIGADE DEFINITELY REPRESENTS CURRENT PORTUGUESE THINKING, ALTHOUGH WE OBVIOUSLY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH HELPING TO FOCUS THEIR PRIORITIES. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF EAMES CITED BRIGADE AS ARMY'S PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENT DURING JANUARY 26 CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE HARTMAN (REF B). THUS FAR, PORTUGUESE ARMY PLANNERS HAVE NOT ADDRESSED QUESTION WHETHER THE AIRTRANSPORTABLE BRIGADE WOULD HAVE A BATTALION ASSOCIATED WITH THE AMF, BUT WE SEE NO REASON WHY THIS WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE.
CARLUCCI UNQTE KISSINGER

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